

VERSION OF AMENDMENTS SHOWING MARKINGS**In the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the extraction of an unwanted ~~acid-catalyzed~~ liquid from a fluid comprising:

introducing an immiscible extraction liquid into a silicone fluid having an unwanted ~~acid-catalyzed~~ liquid therein by mixing, pressurizing, or agitating to form a physical emulsion to form a plurality of extraction liquid droplets under 10 micron in diameter suspended in the fluid;

allowing the plurality of extraction liquid droplets to form a polar interaction with the unwanted ~~acid-catalyzed~~ liquid in the fluid to cause the extraction liquid droplets to form into a plurality of microdispersed droplets containing the unwanted ~~acid-catalyzed~~ liquid;

capturing the microdispersed droplets;

coalescing the microdispersed droplets into larger droplets containing the unwanted ~~acid-catalyzed~~ liquid;

controlling a volume of the immiscible extraction liquid introduced into the fluid such that there is a specific gravity difference of as low as 0.01 between the larger droplets containing the unwanted ~~acid-catalyzed~~ liquid and the fluid; and

separating the larger droplets containing the unwanted ~~acid-catalyzed~~ liquid from the fluid.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of introducing an immiscible extraction liquid into a silicone fluid having an unwanted liquid comprises introducing an immiscible extraction liquid into a fluid stream having an unwanted liquid.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of introducing an immiscible extraction liquid into a silicone fluid having an unwanted liquid comprises introducing an immiscible extraction liquid into a fluid having an unwanted acid.

5. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of introducing an immiscible extraction liquid into a silicone fluid having an unwanted liquid comprises introducing water droplets into a silicone fluid having an unwanted liquid.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for the extraction of an unwanted liquid from a fluid comprising:

~~The process of claim 1 wherein the step of introducing an immiscible extraction liquid into a fluid having an unwanted liquid comprises~~ introducing water droplets into a silicone fluid having an unwanted acid therein by mixing, pressurizing, or agitating to form a physical emulsion to form a plurality of extraction liquid droplets under 10 micron in diameter suspended in the fluid;

allowing the plurality of extraction liquid droplets to form a polar interaction with the unwanted liquid in the fluid to cause the extraction liquid droplets to form into a plurality of microdispersed droplets containing the unwanted liquid;

capturing the microdispersed droplets;

coalescing the microdispersed droplets into larger droplets containing the unwanted liquid;

controlling a volume of the immiscible extraction liquid introduced into the fluid such that there is a specific gravity difference of as low as 0.01 between the larger droplets containing the unwanted liquid and the fluid; and

separating the larger droplets containing the unwanted liquid from the fluid.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of capturing the microdispersed droplets comprises capturing the microdispersed droplets with a porous medium.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8 wherein the step of capturing the microdispersed droplets with a porous medium comprises capturing the microdispersed droplets with a conical shaped, a cylinder shaped or a frustum shaped porous medium.

10. (Original) The process of claim 9 including the step of directing a flow of a fluid stream having an unwanted liquid from an interior of said porous medium through said porous medium to an exterior of said porous medium.

11. (Original) The process of claim 8 including the step of orientating the porous medium vertically such that the larger droplets and the fluid exits the porous medium in a direction

that is substantially parallel to a direction in which the volume of polar liquid was initially introduced into the fluid.

12. (Original) The process of claim 8 including the step of orientating the porous medium horizontally such that the larger droplets and the fluid exits the porous medium in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to each other.

13. (Previously presented) A process for the extraction of an acid from a fluid comprising the steps of:

introducing a volume of polar liquid into a silicone fluid containing an acid;

mixing, pressurizing, or agitating to form a stable physical emulsion to form a plurality of polar liquid droplets under 10 micron in diameter dispersed through out the silicone fluid, said polar liquid droplets attractable to the acid in the silicone fluid through a polar interaction to form a plurality of polar liquid acid droplets;

capturing the polar liquid acid droplets;

coalescing the polar liquid acid droplets into a plurality of larger droplets containing the acid;

controlling an amount of water added to the silicone fluid such that there is a specific gravity difference of as low as 0.01 between the plurality of larger droplets containing the acid and the silicone fluid; and

separating the larger droplets from the silicone fluid to thereby remove the acid from the silicone fluid.

14. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the step of introducing a volume of polar liquid into a fluid containing an acid comprises introducing a volume of water into a fluid containing an acid.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the step of separating the larger droplets from the fluid comprises separating the larger droplets from the fluid by a liquid-liquid separation device.

17. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the step of coalescing the microdispersed droplets into larger droplets containing the acid comprises capturing and then coalescing the polar liquid acid droplets into larger droplets containing the acid by the use of a porous medium.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the step of forming a stable physical emulsion comprising a plurality of polar liquid droplets under 10 micron in diameter dispersed through out the fluid comprises forming a stable physical emulsion comprising a plurality of polar liquid droplets under 1 micron in diameter dispersed through out the fluid.

20. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the acid comprise a sulfuric acid, a trimethylsulfonic acid, or a hydrochloric acid.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the step of introducing a volume of polar liquid into a fluid containing an acid comprises introducing a volume of polar liquid into a hydrocarbon fluid containing an acid.
23. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the step of introducing a volume of polar liquid into a fluid containing an acid comprises introducing a volume of polar liquid into a fluid stream containing an acid.
24. (Original) The process of claim 17 wherein the step of capturing the microdispersed droplets with a porous medium comprises capturing the microdispersed droplets with a conical shaped, a cylinder shaped or a frustum shaped porous medium.
25. (Original) The process of claim 17 including the step of directing a flow of a fluid stream having an unwanted liquid from an interior of said porous medium through said porous medium to an exterior of said porous medium.
26. (Original) The process of claim 17 including the step of orientating the porous medium vertically such that the larger droplets and the fluid exits the porous medium in a

direction that is substantially parallel to a direction in which the volume of polar liquid was initially introduced into the fluid.

27. (Original) The process of claim 17 including the step of orientating the porous medium horizontally such that the larger droplets and the fluid exits the porous medium in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to each other.

28. (Previously Presented) A process for the extraction of an acid from a fluid comprising of the steps of:

introducing a volume of water into a silicone fluid stream containing an acid;

forming a stable emulsion comprising a plurality of water droplets under 10 micron in diameter dispersed throughout the silicone fluid stream, said plurality of water droplets attractable to the acid in the silicone fluid through a hydrophilic interaction to form a plurality of water-acid droplets in the silicone fluid stream;

capturing the plurality of water-acid droplets;

directing the silicone fluid stream containing the plurality of water-acid droplets through a coalescer comprising a porous medium;

coalescing the plurality of water-acid droplets into a plurality of larger water-acid droplets, said larger water-acid droplets gravitationally separable from the silicone fluid;

controlling the volume of water added such that there is a specific gravity difference of as low as 0.01 between the larger water-acid droplets and the silicone fluid; and

separating the larger water-acid droplets from the silicone fluid to thereby remove the acid from the silicone fluid.

29. (Original) The process of claim 28 wherein the step of introducing a volume of water into a silicone fluid stream containing an acid comprises introducing a volume of water containing a buffer into a silicone fluid stream containing an acid

30-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A process for the extraction of an acid from a fluid comprising of the steps of:

introducing a volume of water into a silicone fluid stream containing an acid;

forming a stable emulsion comprising a plurality of water droplets under 10 micron in diameter dispersed throughout the silicone fluid stream, said plurality of water droplets attractable to the acid in the silicone fluid through a hydrophilic interaction to form a plurality of water-acid droplets in the silicone fluid stream;

capturing the plurality of water-acid droplets;

directing the silicone fluid stream containing the plurality of water-acid droplets through a coalescer comprising a conical shaped, a cylinder shaped or a frustum shaped porous medium;

coalescing the plurality of water-acid droplets into a plurality of larger water-acid droplets, said larger water-acid droplets gravitationally separable from the silicone fluid;

controlling the volume of water added such that there is a specific gravity difference of as low as 0.01 between the larger water-acid droplets and the silicone fluid; and

separating the larger water-acid droplets from the silicone fluid to thereby remove the acid from the silicone fluid.

34. (Previously Presented) A process for the extraction of an acid from a fluid comprising of the steps of:

introducing a volume of water into a silicone fluid stream containing a buffer and an acid;

forming a stable emulsion comprising a plurality of water droplets under 10 micron in diameter dispersed throughout the silicone fluid stream, said plurality of water droplets attractable to the acid in the silicone fluid through a hydrophilic interaction to form a plurality of water-acid droplets in the silicone fluid stream;

capturing the plurality of water-acid droplets;

directing the silicone fluid stream containing the plurality of water-acid droplets through a coalescer comprising a conical shaped, a cylinder shaped or a frustum shaped porous medium;

coalescing the plurality of water-acid droplets into a plurality of larger water-acid droplets, said larger water-acid droplets gravitationally separable from the silicone fluid;

controlling the volume of water added such that there is a specific gravity difference as low as 0.01 between the larger water-acid droplets and the silicone fluid; and

separating the larger water-acid droplets from the silicone fluid to thereby remove the acid from the silicone fluid.